

June 22, 2009

Received & Inspected

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

JUN 26 2009

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,



Roger Williamson
5655 Fallwood Drive #11
Taylorsville, UT 84118

0

June 17, 2009

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

JUN 26 2009

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

I am a Deaf person and I use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the Deaf.

Instead of seeking to limit the number of Deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more Deaf people. I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and Deaf individuals.

I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many Deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to

- Serve more Deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more Deaf people
- Improve service and technology so the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for functionally equivalent telecommunications services is met, along with other Deaf individuals, their families and co-workers depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide Deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Thank you.



Rachel J. Pigott
A Deaf individual who resides and works within the DC/MD area

UNABOVED

0

June 22, 2009

Re: CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Chairman Copps Commissioners
Adelstein and McDowell:

Received & Inspected

JUN 26 2009

FCC Mail Room

I want to let you know that I'm a deaf person and always I use video relay service (VRS) to communicate. That's wonderful! I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people along with other deaf individuals use these services in both ~~my~~ work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals.

I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS services available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people. Improve service & technology so the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for functionally equivalent telecommunications

services is met, along with other deaf individuals, their families & coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services

Please stop any VRS program cuts & fulfill the mandate of the American with disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Thank you,

Christine Sozzani

RECEIVED 0
JAN 12 2009